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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/764,816

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Examiner

Kan Yuen

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection Duvaut et al. (Pub No.: 2004/0136329).
2. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/9/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued for claim 19, Rosen did not disclose the method of selecting a profile for each digital subscriber line in the group of DSL wherein each profile is selected based on the estimated data packet throughput values. However, in process 2 shown in fig. 3. In step 85, the measurement data is received from process 1. Step 90 selects a service category or a profile, wherein the service category is determined based on the colored code (gray, green, yellow and red).
3. Applicant's arguments filed 10/9/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued for claim 7, that Sweitzer did not teach the method of selecting, from the first profile and the second profile, a profile that has the highest estimated data packet throughput value to be applied to the digital subscriber line based on a comparison of the first estimated data packet throughput value and the second estimated data packet throughput value. However, this limitation was rejected by Rosen. Same reason is applied for arguments mentioned in page 10-12.
4. Applicant's arguments filed 10/9/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued for claim 9, 23, 24 mentioned in page 10. However, in reference of Liang, see abstract. The test method is employed by two test devices. The test devices can be interpreted as modems.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-6, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Duvaut et al. (Pub No.: 2004/0136329).

For claim 1, Rosen disclosed the method of determining a number of code violations of the digital subscriber line (Rosen see column 12, lines 15-35, and see fig. 2). As shown in the reference, the system is evaluating what data rate a DSL line will support. The data rate is measured based on the estimated characteristic of the line, and these characteristics are insertion loss of the line, phase imbalance of the line, the length of the line, and the line gauge. The line characteristics can be interpreted as the code violations; determining a first estimated data packet throughput value associated

with a first profile based on the number of code violations; determining a second estimated data packet throughput value associated with a second profile based on the number of code violations (Rosen see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). As shown in the figure, each line is evaluated based on their transmission data rate. Each line is classified using different service categories represented by difference colored codes. The data rate is the throughput. Different categories represents first and second profiles; and selecting, from the first profile and the second profile, a profile that has the highest estimated data packet throughput value to be applied to the digital subscriber line based on a comparison of the first estimated data packet throughput value and the second estimated data packet throughput value (Rosen see column 13, lines 20-67, and see fig. 3, unit 90). The process 2 shown in fig. 3, step 90 selects next service provider defined service category. Each service category is defined with a color-code, wherein color gray represents line measurements falls outside of system, and color green represents line supports the service package, and therefore green has the highest estimated data rate.

However, Rosen did not disclose selecting a profile that has the highest estimated data throughput. Gultekin et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches a Mask selector which selects mask with the highest downstream or upstream rate for the LDSL. Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Gultekin et al. in the network of Rosen. The motivation for using the method as taught by Gultekin et al. in

the network of Rosen being that it enhances the system accuracy in term of rate estimation.

Regarding claim 2, Rosen disclosed the method of applying the selected profile to the digital subscriber line (Rosen see column 7, lines 16-35). As the result, a profile is selected to the DSL.

Regarding claim 3, Rosen disclosed the method of the selected profile is the first profile and wherein the first estimated data packet throughput value is greater than the second estimated data packet throughput (Rosen see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). As shown in the figure, each line is evaluated based on their transmission data rate. Each line is classified into different categories represented by difference colored codes. The data rate is the throughput. For example, the colored code green is the first selected profile, wherein the second selected profile is the colored code gray. Green has higher data rate than Gray.

Regarding claim 4, Rosen disclosed the method of determining a third estimated data packet throughput value associated with a third profile based on the number of code violations (Rosen see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). The yellow colored code is the third profile.

Regarding claim 5, Rosen disclosed the method of determining a plurality of estimated data packet throughput values associated with a plurality of profiles based on the number of code violations and wherein a first set of the plurality of profiles correspond to a first data line transmission speed and a second set of the plurality of profiles correspond to a second data line transmission speed (Rosen see column 12,

lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). As shown in the figure, each line is evaluated based on their transmission data rate. Each line is classified into different categories represented by difference colored codes. The data rate is the throughput. Each colored code profile has different data transmission speed.

Regarding claim 6, Rosen disclosed the method of a third set of profiles correspond to a third data line transmission speed (Rosen see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). The yellow colored code is the third profile.

Regarding claim 22, Rosen disclosed the method of applying the selected profile to the digital subscriber line (Rosen see column 7, lines 16-35). As the result, a profile is selected to the DSL.

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Sweitzer et al. (Pub No.: 2003/0189977).

For claim 7, Rosen and Duvaut et al. disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of the first data line transmission speed is 1536 kbits per second, the second data line transmission speed is 768 kbits per second, and the third data line transmission speed is 384 kbits per second. Sweitzer et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of the first data line transmission speed is 1536 kbits per second, the second data line transmission speed is 768 kbits per second, and the third data line transmission speed is 384 kbits per second (see

paragraph 0040, lines 10-15, and Table 1). Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Sweitzer et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. The motivation for using the method as taught by Sweitzer et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. being that each receiving and transmission side displays a highest and lowest transmission rate.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Tzannes (Pat No.: 6498808).

For claim 8, Rosen and Duvaut et al. disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of at least one of the first set of the plurality of profiles is an interleaved profile and another of the first set of the plurality of profiles is a non-interleaved profile. Tzannes from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of at least one of the first set of the plurality of profiles is an interleaved profile and another of the first set of the plurality of profiles is a non-interleaved profile (see column 21, lines 1-15). As shown one path is interleaved and the other is non-interleaved. Therefore we can make it obvious that the interleaved path is for the interleaved profile, and the non-interleaved path is for the non-interleaved profile. Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Tzannes in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. The motivation for using the method as taught by Tzannes in the network of



Rosen and Duvaut et al. being that it provides two sets of data. One set of data is transmitted in the non-interleaved path, and other in the interleaved path. The non-interleaved path provides low latency.

8. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Duvaut et al. (Pub No.: 2004/0136329), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Liang et al. (Pat No.: 6445773).

For claim 9, Rosen and Duvaut et al. disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of generating a graphical display that illustrates the first estimated data packet throughput value, the second estimated data packet throughput value, and the number of code violations. Liang et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of generating a graphical display that illustrates the first estimated data packet throughput value, the second estimated data packet throughput value, and the number of code violations (see column 9, lines 1-10). Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Liang et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. The motivation for using the method as taught by Liang et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. being that it provides a graphical display of result when the user requires for evaluation.

9. Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Liang et al. (Pat No.: 6445773).

For claim 23, Rosen disclosed the method of a controller including memory and a processor (Rosen see column 9, lines 38-55, and see fig. 1). As shown in figure 1, the test unit 2 comprises a memory for storage, and unit 5 is considered as the processor; a code violation measurement unit responsive to digital subscriber lines, the code violation measurement unit to provide code violation data associated with each of the digital subscriber lines (see column 12, lines 15-35, and see fig. 2). As shown in the reference, the system is evaluating what data rate a DSL line will support. The data rate is measured based on the estimated characteristic of the line, and these characteristics are insertion loss of the line, phase imbalance of the line, the length of the line, and the line gauge. The line characteristics can be interpreted as the code violations; and a profile database to store a plurality of profiles including a first profile and a second profile (see column 9, lines 38-55, and see fig. 1); the graphical report including a first profile curve illustrating data packet throughput values with respect to code violation data for the first profile and a second profile curve illustrating data packet throughput values with respect to code violation data for the second profile (see column 14, lines 9-20, and see fig. 3, unit 165). As the result the lines are classified into different categories, a service line or a profile is selected based on the comparison of the classes. However, Rosen did not disclose the method of a terminal device responsive to the controller, the terminal device configured to display a graphical report. Liang et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of a terminal device

responsive to the controller, the terminal device configured to display a graphical report (see column 9, lines 1-10). Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Liang et al. in the network of Rosen. The motivation for using the method as taught by Liang et al. in the network of Rosen being that it provides a graphical display of result when the user requires for evaluation.

For claim 24, Rosen disclosed the method the first profile curve intersects with the second profile curve (see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). As shown in the figure, each line is evaluated based on their transmission data rate. Each line is classified into different categories represented by difference colored codes. The data rate is the throughput. Since the status of the lines is classified, it's well known to a person of skilled in the art to plot a curve based on the status of lines.

9. Claims 10, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Duvaut et al. (Pub No.: 2004/0136329), And Tzannes (Pat No.: 6498808), as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Liang et al. (Pat No.: 6445773).

For claim 10, Rosen Duvaut et al. and Tzannes disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of the graphical display illustrates a first set of data packet throughput points for the first profile and a second set of data packet throughput points for the second profile. Liang et al. from the same or similar fields of

endeavor teaches the method of the graphical display illustrates a first set of data packet throughput points for the first profile and a second set of data packet throughput points for the second profile (see column 9, lines 1-10). An official notice is taken that displaying both profile results is skilled in the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Liang et al. in the network of Rosen Duvaut et al. and Tzannes. The motivation for using the method as taught by Liang et al. in the network of Rosen Duvaut et al. and Tzannes being that it provides a graphical display of result when the user requires for evaluation.

For claim 14, Rosen disclosed the method of the first set of data packet throughput points form a first display curve, the second set of data packet throughput points form a second display curve, and wherein the display curves are displayed in a manner to allow selection of a profile having the highest data packet throughput for a selected number of code violations (see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). As shown in the figure, each line is evaluated based on their transmission data rate. Each line is classified into different categories represented by difference colored codes. The data rate is the throughput. Although the reference did not disclose the curve of each profile, however the reference disclosed different classes of lines. Therefore, we can interpret that the colored codes are corresponding to display curves, which displays the highest data packet rate for a selected number of code violations.

For claim 15, Rosen also disclosed the method of the number of code violations is correlated with a level of noise present on the digital subscriber line (see column 12, lines 15-35, and see fig. 2). As shown in the reference, the system is evaluating what data rate a DSL line will support. The data rate is measured based on the estimated characteristic of the line, and these characteristics are insertion loss of the line, phase imbalance of the line, the length of the line, and the line gauge. The line characteristics can be interpreted as the noise.

10. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Duvaut et al. (Pub No.: 2004/0136329), and Cooper et al. (Pat No.: 6678245).

For claim 11, Rosen and Duvaut et al. disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of the number of code violations are measured during a selected time period. Cooper et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of the number of code violations are measured during a selected time period (see column 4, lines 48-62). Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Cooper et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al.. The motivation for using the method as taught by Cooper et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. being that it provides service selection based on the time requested by users.

For claim 12, Cooper et al. also disclosed the method of the selected time period is less than thirty minutes (see column 4, lines 48-62).

For claim 13, Cooper et al. also disclosed the method of the selected time period is fifteen minutes (see column 4, lines 48-62).

11. Claims 16, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Duvaut et al. (Pub No.: 2004/0136329), and Lotter et al. (Pat No.: 7218645).

For claim 16, Rosen and Duvaut et al. disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of the data packet throughput is a TCP/IP throughput. Lotter et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of the data packet throughput is a TCP/IP throughput (see column 12, lines 9-15). Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Lotter et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al.. The motivation for using the method as taught by Lotter et al. in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. being that it provides guaranteed data with QoS since TCP/IP is a QoS transmission protocol.

For claim 17, Lotter et al. also disclosed the method of the TCP/IP throughput is determined based on laboratory testing data (see column 12, lines 9-15). As shown, the length of a packet can be interpreted as the testing data.

For claim 21, Lotter et al. also disclosed the method of the data packet throughput value is a TCP/IP throughput value (see column 12, lines 9-15).

12. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Duvaut et al. (Pub No.: 2004/0136329), and Aoki (Pub No.: 2003/0033262).

For claim 18, Rosen and Duvaut et al. disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of switching a profile from a previously applied profile to the selected profile on the digital subscriber line. Aoki from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of switching a profile from a previously applied profile to the selected profile on the digital subscriber line (see paragraph 0025, lines 1-10). As shown, the systems include switching equipment 11 to switch users between a lower speed and a higher speed connection environment. Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Aoki in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. The motivation for using the method as taught by Aoki in the network of Rosen and Duvaut et al. being that it provides switching system to switch a user to different level of speed transmission.

13. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444), in view of Liang et al. (Pat No.: 6445773), as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Nelson et al. (Pat No.: 6263048).

For claim 25, Rosen and Liang et al. disclosed all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of the memory within the controller includes a profile selection routine, the profile selection routine automatically initiates collection of code violation data and comparison of the data packet throughput values for selection of a profile from the profile database for application to each of the digital subscriber lines. Nelson et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the method of the memory within the controller includes a profile selection routine, the profile selection routine automatically initiates collection of code violation data and comparison of the data packet throughput values for selection of a profile from the profile database for application to each of the digital subscriber lines (see abstract, lines 1-20). As shown, the DSL line is monitored by periodically distributing spectral spacing and notches. The number of loops are compared to bit rate information, and based on the bit rate to select cable pairs that support the criteria. The cable pairs can be interpreted as the plurality of medium that is chosen based on loops that meets the bit rate (throughput) requirement. Thus, it would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the method as taught by Nelson et al. in the network of Rosen and Liang et al.. The motivation for using the method as taught by Nelson et al. in the network of Rosen and Liang et al. being that it provides a monitoring system which monitor and compare and selecting the best service.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

14. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

15. Claims 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rosen (Pat No.: 6985444).

In claim 19, Rosen disclosed the method of periodically using an automated system to retrieve measurements of code violations for each digital subscriber line in a group of digital subscriber lines (Rosen see column 5, lines 48-55). In the reference, the automatic measurement system is installing to measure the line status; determining estimated data packet throughput values associated with each of a plurality of different available profiles wherein the estimated data packet throughput values are based on the measurements of code violations for each of the digital subscriber lines in the group of digital subscriber lines (Rosen see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). As shown in the figure, each line is evaluated based on their transmission data rate. Each line is classified into different categories represented by difference colored codes. The data rate is the throughput; and selecting a profile for each digital

subscriber line in the group of digital subscriber lines wherein each profile is selected based on the estimated data packet throughput values (Rosen see column 13, lines 20-67, and see fig. 3, unit 90). The process 2 shown in fig. 3, step 90 selects next service provider defined service category. Each service category is defined with a color-code, wherein color gray represents line measurements falls outside of system, and color green represents line supports the service package, and therefore green has the highest estimated data rate.

Regarding claim 20, Rosen disclosed the method of each profile is selected that has the highest estimated data packet throughput value (Rosen see column 12, lines 38-67, and see fig. 3, unit 135, 145, and 155). As shown in the figure, each line is evaluated based on their transmission data rate. Each line is classified into different categories represented by difference colored codes. In this case the colored green code has the highest rate.

### ***Conclusion***

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kan Yuen whose telephone number is 571-270-1413. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10:00a.m-3:00p.m EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky O. Ngo can be reached on 571-272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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KY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricky Q. Ngo', is positioned above the printed name.

RICKY Q. NGO  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER